

Atty. Docket No.: MXIC 1516-1
Appl. No. 10/721,605

PATENT

Remarks

Claims 1, 8, 12 - 23, 29, 33 - 43, 47, 53 and 57 - 67 are amended, and claims 5, 9 - 11, 30 - 32, 54 - 56, and previously withdrawn claims 71 - 73 are canceled herein. Claims 4, 26 and 50 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1 - 4, 6 - 8, 12 - 25, 27 - 29, 33 - 49 and 51 - 70 are now in the application.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In an Advisory action mailed February 9, 2006, the Examiner indicated that claims 9 - 15, 30 - 36 and 54 - 60, objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Originally claim 9 depended from claim 8, which depended from claim 1; claim 30 depended from claim 29, which depended from claim 23; and claim 54 depended from claim 53, which depended from claim 47.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include all the limitations of claims 8 and 9, and claim 8 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 9 (canceled); claim 23 is amended herein to include all the limitations of claims 29 and 30, and claim 29 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 30 (canceled); and claim 47 is amended herein to include all the limitations of claims 53 and 54, and claim 53 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 54 (canceled). Accordingly, claims 1, 8, 23, 29, 47 and 53 are now in condition for allowance. Other claims are amended to correct dependencies and to ensure adequate antecedents, and still other claims are canceled in view of these amendments. As a result of amendment and cancellation of claims all the claims now under consideration in the application depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, claim 23, or claim 47.

Accordingly, all the claims now in the application -- namely, claims 1 - 4, 6 - 8, 12 - 25, 27 - 29, 33 - 49 and 51 - 70 -- are in condition for allowance, and action to that effect is requested.

This Amendment is being made in lieu of an appeal brief, and it is believed that this Amendment puts the application into condition for allowance.


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This amendment is being filed within the second month following the filing of a Notice of Appeal and, accordingly, it is believed that no extension of time or fee therefor is required in connection with the filing of this paper. In the event the Examiner may determine that an extension of time be required in connection with the filing of this paper, petition is hereby made therefor, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee[s] in connection therewith (or to credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (MXIC 1516-1).

If the Examiner determines that a conference would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative, undersigned, at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,


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